

RAZORBACK SUCKER
(*Xyrauchen texanus*)

STATUS: Endangered (56 FR 54957, October 23, 1991) with critical habitat (59 FR 13379, March 21, 1994).

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: The head is flattened on top and the body is stout with olive-brown above to yellowish on the belly. A long, high, sharp-edged keel-like hump is found behind the head. The head and tail are quite dark in breeding males. Can grow to 0.9 m (3 ft) in length and over 2.7 kg (6 lbs.) in weight.

HABITAT: Found in backwaters, flooded bottomlands, pools, side channels and other slower moving habitats under 1,829 m (6,000 ft) elevation. Historically found in areas near strong currents.

RANGE: Historical: Endemic to the Colorado River Basin. Formerly occurred in all major rivers and larger streams in the Basin and was once the most widespread and abundant of the Basin's big-river fishes.

Current: In the Lower Basin, populations isolated to Lakes Mohave, Mead, and the lower Colorado River below Havasu. In the Upper Basin, small remnant populations are found in the Green, Yampa, and mainstream Colorado rivers. Also found in the San Juan River near the New Mexico-Utah border. The species is found in parts of Greenlee, Mohave, Pinal, Yavapai, Yuma, La Paz, Maricopa, Gila, Coconino, and Graham counties, Arizona.

REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: Alteration of river conditions and loss of habitat caused by dam construction, irrigation dewatering and channelization; and introduction of exotic fish species, such as black bullhead, carp, and channel catfish.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: NPS, USFWS, Bureau of Reclamation, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Hualapai, Fort Mohave, USFS including Coconino, Prescott and Tonto; tribal owners include Fort Apache and San Carlos; the states of Arizona, California, Nevada, and private landowners.

NOTES: Recovery goals were published in 2002, which supplement the 1998 Recovery Plan and are available on line at:

<http://arizonaes.fws.gov/Documents/DocumentsBySpecies/RazorbackSucker/Razorback%20sucker-August-02.pdf>

Critical habitat includes parts of the Yampa, Greene, Duchesne, White, Colorado, San Juan, Gila, Salt, and Verde rivers. Also includes Lake Mohave and Lake Mead.

Currently, populations are being reared at Willow Beach and Dexter National Fish Hatcheries, and Bubbling Ponds State Fish Hatchery. Reintroductions have been done in the Gila, Salt, and Verde rivers. The Colorado River Indian Tribe hatchery and the Bureau of Reclamation are important components in an ongoing program to replace the aging population in Lake Mohave, restore the Lake Havasu population, and increase the lower river populations.

Listed as a Species of Special Concern by the State of Arizona.